



Your Extraordinary Life

A Primary Source Exercise, Grades 2-5

How Will People Know Your Extraordinary Life Story?

1. Review the presentation, [*The Extraordinary Life of Jimmy Carter*](#), paying close attention to the different primary sources showing President Carter's life (photograph, video, written document, artifact, artwork, etc.).
2. Think about what you want to be when you grow up and imagine what photographs, artifacts, documents, posters, artwork, audio or film would exist for people to learn your life story; these can be actual sources that already exist, or ones imagined in the future.
3. Choose one of these sources that means a lot to you and provide/create a copy to give to your teacher to share with the class (physical or digital format acceptable).
4. Students will be assigned two of their classmates' primary sources and complete the appropriate [Document Analysis Worksheet](#) for their skill level and source type, followed by class discussion.

Analyze a Written Document



Meet the document.

Are there any special markings on the document? Circle all that apply.



Is it handwritten or typed?



Write down any words that you don't know. Then look up the definitions.



Try to make sense of it.

What is the main idea of the document?

List two quotes (words from the document) that help support the main idea.

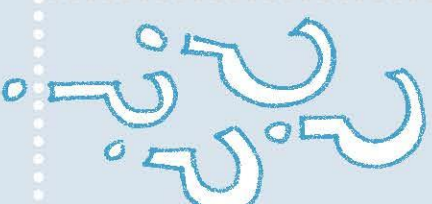
Why do you think this document was written?

Observe its parts.

Who wrote this document?

What is the date of the document?

Who read or received this document?



Use it as historical evidence.

Where do you think you could find out more information about the persons who wrote or received this document?

Where do you think you could find out more information about this event?



Analyze a Photograph



Meet the photo.

What do you see?

Is the photo?

☐ BLACK
AND
WHITE

☐ COLOR

Is there a caption?

☐ YES

☐ NO

If so, what does the caption tell you?



Observe its parts.

Circle what you see in the photo.



PEOPLE



OBJECTS



BOTH

What are the people doing in the photo?

What are the objects used for in the photo?

Write two words that describe the photo.

Try to make sense of it.

Who do you think took this photo?

Where do you think this photo was taken?

List something that helps you prove where it was taken.

Why do you think the photo was taken?

How does this photo compare to modern times?

Use it as historical evidence.

Where do you think we could find out more information about the people or objects in the photo?



Analyze an Artifact or Object



Meet the Artifact.







What do you think it is?

Observe its parts.

What do you think the object is made out of? Circle all that apply.

									
BONE	CERAMIC	FABRIC	GLASS	LEATHER	METAL	PAPER	PLASTIC	STONE	WOOD
POTTERY									

How do you think the object feels?
Circle all that apply.

		
HEAVY	LIGHT	SMOOTH
		
ROUGH	HARD	SOFT

What is the color of the object?

What is the shape of the object?

What size is the object?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SMALL LIKE A COIN	MEDIUM LIKE A BASKETBALL	LARGE LIKE A CAR

What are three words that describe the object?

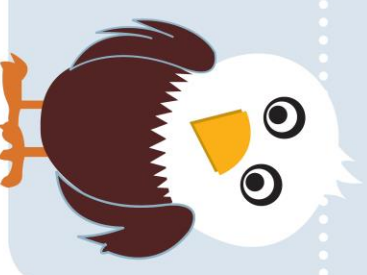
Try to make sense of it.

What do you think the object was used for?

Who do you think would have used the object?

What does the object tell us about the time period when it was made and used?

Do we still use this object today? If so, how is it different?



NATIONAL
ARCHIVES

Analyze Artwork



Meet the artwork.

What do you see?

What type of artwork do you think it is?
Check all that apply.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PAINTING | <input type="checkbox"/> MIXED MEDIA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DRAWING/
SKETCH | <input type="checkbox"/> SCENE/EVENT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ENGRAVING/
LITHOGRAPH | <input type="checkbox"/> PORTRAIT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MURAL | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ABSTRACT |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER |

Is there a title?

- ☐ YES ☐ NO

If so, what does the title tell you?

Observe its parts.

Circle what you see in the photo.



PEOPLE



OBJECTS



ACTIVITIES

What are the people doing in the artwork?

What are the objects used for in the artwork?

What activities are taking place in the artwork?

Write two words that describe the artwork.

Try to make sense of it.

Who do you think created the artwork?

What time period does the artwork show?

Why do you think it was created?

What is the main idea of the artwork?
List two examples from the artwork that support the main idea.



Analyze a Cartoon



Meet the cartoon.

What do you see?

Is the cartoon?

☐ BLACK AND WHITE

☐ COLOR

Is there a caption?

☐ YES

☐ NO

If so, what does the caption tell you?

Try to make sense of it.

Answer as best you can. The caption, if available, may help.

What do the symbols stand for in the cartoon?



PEOPLE



SYMBOLS



OBJECTS

What are the people doing in the cartoon?

What are the objects used for in the cartoon?

Write two words that describe the cartoon.

Who drew the cartoon?

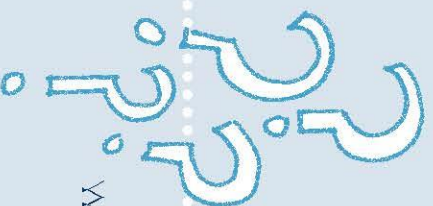
When do you think this cartoon was drawn?

What is the main idea of the cartoon?
List two parts (words or objects from the cartoon) that support the main idea.

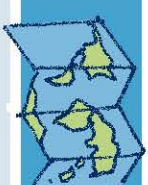


Use it as historical evidence.

Where do you think we could find out more information about the people, symbols, or objects in the cartoon?



Analyze a Map



Meet the map.

What do you see?

Does the map have a title?

Try to make sense of it.

When was the map drawn?

Observe its parts.

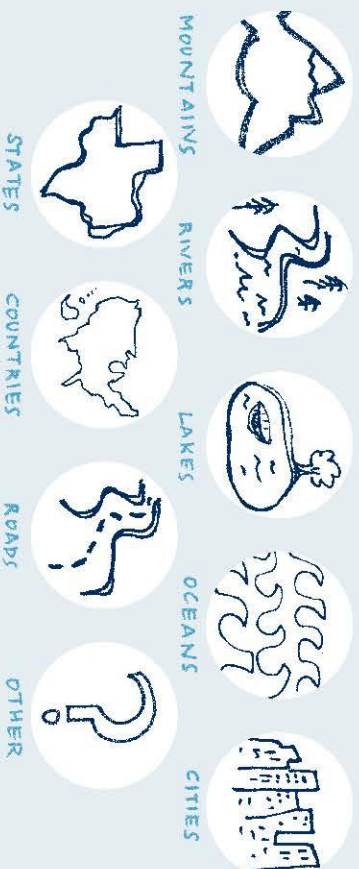
Does the map include? Circle all that apply.

Are symbols or colors used in the legend?
If so, what do they stand for?



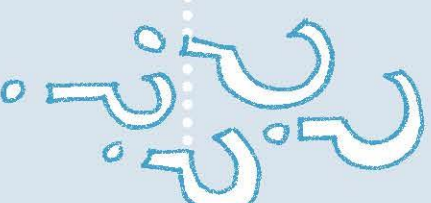
What place or places are on the map?

What does the map show? Circle all that apply.



Use it as historical evidence.

Where do you think we could find out more information about the place or places shown on the map?



How does it compare to a current map of the same place?



Analyze a Poster



Meet the poster.

What do you see?

Are there more words or pictures?



What do the words in the poster tell you?

Write down any words that you don't know.
Then look up the definitions.



Observe its parts.

What are the main colors in the poster?



Are there any symbols?
If so, what do they mean?



Write two words that describe the poster.



Try to make sense of it.

Who do you think made the poster?

Who do you think was supposed to see the poster?

When do you think this poster was made?

What is the main idea of the poster?
List two parts (words or pictures from the poster) that support the main idea.



Use it as historical evidence.

Where do you think you could find out more information about the people, pictures, or message in the poster?



Analyze a Video



Meet the video.

What do you see in the video?
Circle all that apply.



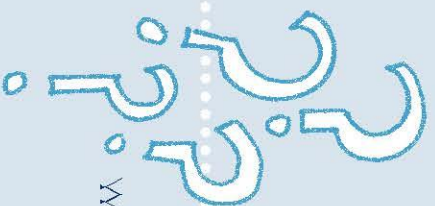
PEOPLE ACTIVITIES PLACES

Is there a title?

☐ YES

☐ NO

If so, what does the title tell you about the video?



Observe its parts.

Who do you see in the video?

What activities do you see happening in the video?

What places do you see in the video?

Write two words that describe this video.



Try to make sense of it.

Who do you think made this video?

Who do you think was supposed to see the video?

When is this video from?

What is the main idea of the video?
List two things (people, activities, or places) from the video that support the main idea.



Use it as historical evidence.

Where do you think you could find out more information about the people, activities or places from this video?



Analyze a Sound Recording



Meet the sound recording.

What do you hear in the sound recording? Circle all that apply.



TALKING



SINGING



SPEECH



MUSIC



NEWS
REPORT



INTERVIEW



DISCUSSION

Is there a title?

☐ YES

☐ NO

If so, what does the title tell you about the recording?

Try to make sense of it.

Who do you think made this sound recording?

Who do you think was supposed to hear this recording?

When is this recording from?

Observe its parts.

Who do you hear in the sound recording?

What is the sound recording about?

Write two words that describe this sound recording.



What is the main idea of the recording? List two things (words or sounds) from the recording that support the main idea.



Use it as historical evidence.
Where do you think you could find out more information about the people or topics from this sound recording?

